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BOSTON • Wednesday, May 16, 2012

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LETTERS@METRO.US

ALL YOUR LAUGHS BELONG TO ME NOW {page 15}

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BOSTON
Wednesday, May 16, 2012

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ City Councilor Tito Jackson will ask to schedule a hearing today to discuss new parking meter technology in Boston.

Feed your meter with a tap of your smartphone

- Council to discuss app that lets you pay for public parking from anywhere
- Never get a ticket again
- Many more steps before it could take effect {page 02}

Metropolitik

Congressman promises more deficit drama

- Debt deal fight will go on
- Falsehoods cloud Republican attacks over Obama's role in spending, budget woes {page 09}

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Meters are a-changin'?

City Councilor wants to explore pay-by-phone parking • Drivers could skip the search for quarters • Users would be able to feed the meter from anywhere, hopefully avoiding tickets

As she dug around in her purse, holding her baby in her arms, Jeanne searched for quarters to feed the meter in South Boston.

"Hopefully I have at least one quarter," said Jeanne, who didn't want to give her last name, before she finally found one buried in her bag.

"If I could flash my phone and pay for the meter, I would," she said.

That's the exact type of innovation City Councilor Tito Jackson is hoping to bring to Boston.

Today, during a City Council meeting, Jackson will request a future hearing to discuss updating the way to pay for parking.

According to Jackson, the purpose of the hearing would be to explore how the Hub could further modernize parking payment methods by adopting pay-by-phone technologies.

"Intelligent parking is the way of the future," said Jackson, who first thought of the idea after a visit to Washington, D.C., where pay-by-phone apps are used to feed the meter.

"We should employ these solutions to make the lives of people in the city better."

Jackson said the app would allow drivers to use an iPhone, Android or Blackberry device to purchase time, and text alerts would be sent to phones when the meter is running low.

People could also pay the meter without rushing out of a store or restaurant.

"This is truly government 2.0. It's the direction we should be going," Jackson said.

The initiative would not wipe out current payment methods, however, it would just add to the options the city already offers drivers, according to Jackson.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ These meters outside of City Hall would still operate with coins, but City Councilor Tito Jackson wants to make paying remotely with a smartphone app an additional option.

STEVE ANNEAR
steve.annear@metro.us

A lot to talk about

Before anything moves forward, officials would have to do the following:

- Discuss how pay-by-phone apps would impact parking ticket revenue
- Explore how cities currently utilize the technology
- Meet with the mayor's office

Never miss a spot

BOSTON. Jackson said he may also want to look into other apps for Hub drivers. He said some cities use a smartphone app that identifies open parking spots to keep drivers from circling the block and cut back on their carbon footprint. METRO/SA

Quoted

"This is truly government 2.0. It's the direction we should be going."
JACKSON

Calling all innovators

BOSTON. With a host of tech start-ups and the boom of Boston's Innovation District, City Councilor Tito Jackson hopes local companies would be interested in stepping up to the plate to design mobile application solutions to solve the parking problem.

"We have a huge group of awesome, innovative, next-generation companies that are attracting talent internationally and with all of those bright, young, vibrant individuals we should be able to have our own tech company [help out]," he said. METRO/SA

In the news

10

The Greater Boston Area ranked 10th in a survey of best places for new college graduates. The survey, published by The Atlantic Cities, weighed factors including the unemployment rate, average salary, rental share of housing and share of commuters who use public transportation. The San Francisco Bay Area was ranked first. METRO

Today's local tweet

"One in three People will sleepwalk during their lifetime, according to a study in Neurology. That explains why I was on the MBTA in my PJs"

@GSWOODWARD ON A NEW STUDY THAT CAME OUT YESTERDAY EXPLAINING THAT MOST ADULTS ACTUALLY SLEEPWALK MORE THAN SCIENTISTS THOUGHT

Woman allegedly tries to run down clergyman

BOSTON. A day-care operator pleaded not guilty yesterday to allegedly trying to run over members of a nearby Jamaica Plain church during an argument over parking spaces.

Linda Valentin, 46, of Natick, was released on her own recognizance for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and assault and battery, the Suffolk DA said.

The victims told officers they were directing traffic in the shared parking lot when Valentin drove toward them at a high rate of speed and only missed because they jumped out of the way.

They said she exited the car, screamed at them and pushed a clergyman.

Valentin allegedly became incensed that the church was holding a celebration during her open house. METRO/MN

MICHAEL GELBWASSER/SHARON.PATCH.COM

▶ Valentin

T fare increase signs go up

BOSTON. Starting today, MBTA riders will begin seeing new signs about the fare increases scheduled to roll out in July.

T officials said staff will start posting new fare information on the hundreds of fare vending machines where public transportation is offered.

The green signs will be plastered at the kiosks in various stations, showing what the changes in fare prices will be after June 30. METRO

Attorney begins serving 90-day jail sentence

BOSTON. Outspoken criminal defense attorney Barry Wilson began serving his jail sentence yesterday on contempt charges.

Wilson, 62, reported to Suffolk Superior Court with supporters and surrendered, according to the Globe.

He was sentenced to 90 days in jail after an outburst during a murder trial last year. Wilson had protested the seating of a jury member with a law enforcement background.

Wilson said he did not fear going to jail after having briefly spent time there in the past.

One of Wilson's most recent defendants including former City Councilor Chuck Turner. He told the Globe he will likely not reopen his law practice once he is released from jail. METRO/BOSTON.COM

▶ Wilson

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Hearing on T testing tonight

Still feel weird about the MBTA and the Department of Homeland Security doing biological testing underground? Voice your opinion about it at a public hearing tonight.

The T announced earlier this month that it teamed up with DHS and will be pumping an innocuous bacterium into parts of the MBTA to test a system of biological detection sensors at certain stations.

Event details

- **Where:** Central Sq. YMCA
- **Time:** 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- **What:** Public comment on DHS biological sensor testing on the Red Line

The testing, which is scheduled to take place this summer, will evaluate the ability of new sensors to detect hazardous biological materials in the subway in the event of a real-life emergency.

MBTA officials said the testing is completely safe and would happen during a time when the system is not operating. METRO/SA

Group: Hub needs LGBT youth shelter

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
LETTERS@METRO.US

As a college student working at a drop-in center for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth, Chris Susi saw what happened when resource centers and agencies shut their doors at the end of the day.

Some clients headed home, but the homeless teens ended up trying to find a bed at a city shelter that did not meet their needs or ensure their safety.

While there are many homeless shelters in Boston, there are very few that are dedicated to the needs of LGBT youth. One group is hoping to change that.

"There's got to be something that can be done between the hours of 8 p.m. and 8 a.m.," Susi, 25, said.

With that thought, Susi and a group of three friends, who all identify in some way as LGBT, started a Dorchester-based nonprofit called Inn Motion Inc., with the goal of eventually opening a temporary shelter for LGBT youth.

"LGBT young people have some unique needs. Even traditional separating of biological sex becomes challenging, especially for transgender young people," said Grace Sterling Stowell, executive director of the Boston Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth.

While activists have said the rate of youth homelessness in Massachusetts has increased, a recent study by Children's Hospital Boston found that LGBT youth face disproportionately high levels of homelessness compared to their straight peers.

Susi's group launched its fundraising campaign two weeks ago and estimates the group needs about $500,000.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
michael.naughton@metro.us

By the numbers

15%
The rate of homelessness among students who reported themselves as being bisexual

25%
The rate of homelessness among students who reported themselves as being lesbian or gay

3.2%
The rate of homelessness among students who reported themselves as heterosexual

Source: Children's Hospital Boston 2011 study

Protest. Immigration

▶ Dozens gathered outside the Massachusetts Democratic Party Headquarters on Summer Street yesterday to condemn the Secure Communities Act.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

The Somerville-based immigrant rights group Centro Presente continued its protest of the controversial Secure Communities program, which was launched in Massachusetts yesterday. The program allows federal immigration officials access to fingerprints of individuals arrested locally. METRO

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Patrick talks health care

From the corner office

Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick was the featured speaker at yesterday's Greater Boston Chamber Government Affairs Forum.

This week: Deval Patrick, governor of Massachusetts

▶ Patrick

Visit

For more information or to register for these events, visit **bostonchamber.com**

1 On the success of the 2006 health care access law: We have a lot to be proud of when it comes to health care reform — 98.2 percent of our total population is insured and 99.8 percent of children. While the national trend between 2006 to 2010 was going in the other direction, we increased the number of insured in Massachusetts by more than 400,000 people. And more businesses offer health insurance to their employees today than before our reforms took effect — some 78 percent of Massachusetts businesses as compared to the national average of about 69 percent.

2 On the unsustainability of rising health care costs: Nationally, spending on health care increased 6.5 percent annually in the last 10 years, while real incomes fell by more than 7 percent during that period. In Massachusetts, per capita health care spending has grown almost three times as fast as median family income in that time. This is unsustainable. Spending on health care is $67 billion every year in Massachusetts, and experts estimate that 20 to 30 percent of that spending is wasted on overtreatment, preventable errors and unnecessary administration.

3 On his reactions to payment reform legislation filed by the House and Senate: There's more than one way to "skin a cat," as they say, especially in public policy. I made a proposal last year, and the House and Senate are preparing to debate their own approaches. While I don't agree with everything in either bill, there is a lot to like in both.

– Coming up at the Chamber

On Tuesday, June 26, Jay Gonzalez, secretary of the commonwealth's Executive Office of Administration & Finance, will address the Chamber's Government Affairs Forum. For more information or to register for this event, visit bostonchamber.com.

Greater Boston Chamber
The Hub of Business

News in brief

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Boston Police Officer Lisa Venese stands guard beside the Boston Police Memorial yesterday.

BPD stands guard for fallen members

BOSTON. Boston police officers took shifts yesterday during a 24-hour vigil to honor their fallen members. The vigil at the Boston Police Memorial at headquarters in Roxbury coincided with the national Peace Officer's Memorial Day. Thousands of officers from across the country were expected in Washington, D.C., as part of Police Week.

Cambridge has the best readers

CAMBRIDGE. There's no reading between the lines, Cambridge is one of the most well-read cities in the country. According to Amazon.com, Cambridge ranked second in the nation on an annual list of the "Most Well-Read Cities" in America. The ranking was determined by compiling sales data of all book, magazine and newspaper sales in both print and Kindle format since June 1, 2011, on a per capita basis in cities with more than 100,000 residents. Cambridge trailed behind Alexandria, Va., according to the press release.

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JPMorgan losses prompt FBI probe

The FBI has opened a probe into trading losses at JPMorgan Chase & Co., stepping up the pressure on the bank after the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and the Federal Reserve said they were also looking into the wrong-way bets that led to the losses.

Yet at the same time, shareholders backed embattled Chief Executive Jamie Dimon at the bank's annual shareholders meeting in Tampa, Fla., yesterday, voting against a proposal to split the jobs of CEO and chairman.

Though shareholders mostly gave Dimon a pass, pressure mounted on the bank to reclaim some of the millions of dollars it paid to the executives who oversaw the trades. Dimon said JPMorgan would pursue more disciplinary action against those who were responsible.

"We will do the right thing. That may well include clawbacks," he told reporters after the annual meeting. REUTERS

JEMAL COUNTESS/GETTY IMAGES

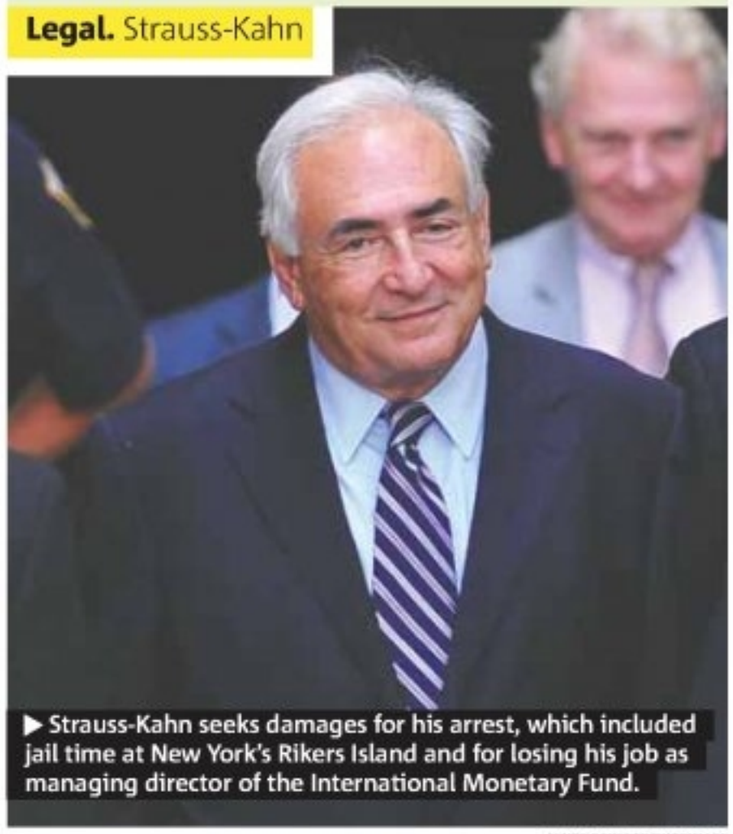
▶ Dimon

"We will do the right thing. That may well include clawbacks."
CHIEF EXECUTIVE JAMIE DIMON

Romney on trade

U.S. Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's campaign said yesterday JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s huge trading losses were an unfortunate part of a free market economy. Romney adviser Eric Fehrnstrom told NBC that, while Romney supports some financial regulation, the losses at one of the nation's largest banks involved investors, not taxpayers, and that rules for Wall Street shouldn't hamper investments. Wall Street reform has become a top campaign issue for the Democratic president and his presumptive Republican rival leading up to the Nov. 6 presidential election.

Legal. Strauss-Kahn



▶ Strauss-Kahn seeks damages for his arrest, which included jail time at New York's Rikers Island and for losing his job as managing director of the International Monetary Fund.

JAMES DEVANEY/WIREIMAGE

Strauss-Kahn countersues maid

Former IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn has filed a $1 million countersuit against the hotel maid who accused him of sexual assault, costing him his job and any chance of being elected president of France. The countersuit was filed Monday on the anniversary of the incident. REUTERS

Rattlesnake bites man at Wal-Mart

SALMON, IDAHO. When Mica Craig reached down to brush what he thought was a stick off some mulch in the garden section of a Washington state Wal-Mart, it turned around and sank its fangs into his hand.

The Friday encounter with a rattlesnake sent Craig, 47, to the hospital, where he said he remained in excruciating pain and may lose feeling in two fingers. Wal-Mart Stores Inc. has apologized.

"I reached down to grab the stick to move it out of the way, and the snake stretched out, turned around and got its fangs in my right hand," he said. "I slung it off and I did a tap dance on it until it was dead." REUTERS

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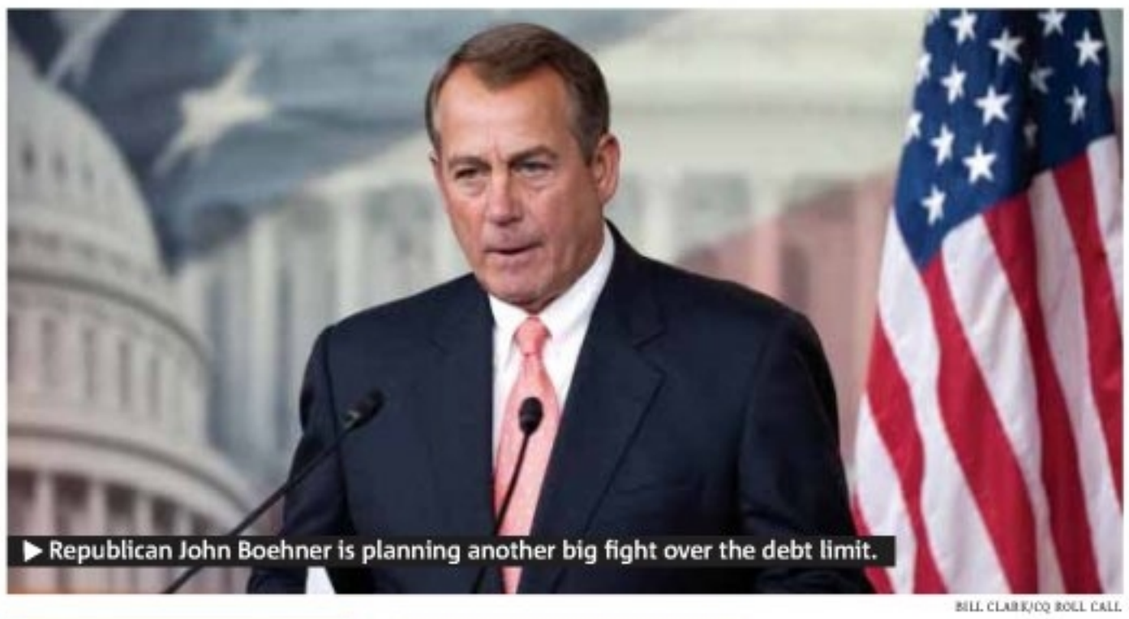
Deficit distortions at heart of GOP agenda



▶ Republican John Boehner is planning another big fight over the debt limit.

BILL CLARK/CQ ROLL CALL

Metropolitik

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The Republican party remains unchastened for its political intransigence these past four years, and why would it be any other way? After two years of just-say-no rule in Washington following the election of President Barack Obama — 24 months of rancorous opposition, in which nearly every Democrat proposal was spurned, even those causes originally championed by the right — voters rewarded Republicans with landslide elections in 2010, tilting the balance of power more in their favor. Since then, they've continued that vehement obstruction, hoping for similar electoral dividends come November.

Last year, the GOP's unyielding arrogance came back to bite us all in the form of a lowered national credit rating: Standard & Poor's dropped the indicator of confidence in U.S. financial security over what it called "political brinkmanship" related to the lack of a debt deal — a political failure to compromise stemming, numerous reports have revealed, from the Republican party's strict adherence to a no-tax orthodoxy.

Now, House Speaker John Boehner has promised a repeat of that bruising battle. Boehner, speaking at a fiscal summit yesterday, affirmed his plan to once again play hard-to-get over the previously routine bipartisan procedure of raising the debt ceiling. "I will again insist on my simple principle of cuts and reforms greater than the debt limit increase," he said.

It sounds good on its face, but Boehner's talk of "cuts and reforms" is a ruse. In 2011, Obama agreed to more cuts than many in his coalition had bargained for, but Boehner toed the line on the Grover Norquist no-tax pledge and bailed. No compromise, no deal. Meanwhile, the bipartisan framework created to try and force that deal — the so-called supercommittee, which implemented automatic cuts disliked by both parties in the absence of agreement — proved itself without substance last week when congressional Republicans moved to squeeze their way out of their half of the bad bargain, voting to cut social programs as a means of preventing reductions in military funding.

Republicans distort facts to destroy the Obama presidency, by any means necessary. They have effectively marshaled the deficit boogeyman to scare half the country into distrusting the executive — even though most of our current debt burden can be directly traced back to President George W. Bush. (A fact we'll be skewered for repeating, no doubt, but a fact nonetheless.) What's more: The Paul Ryan budget proposal, a Republican rallying point, actually does a worse job of reducing the deficit than Obama's plan.

So here we are again. United in their opposition to President Obama and verifiable economic data, Republicans hold the nation's purse strings hostage. Break out the champagne, we've got some rewarding to do!

GET FED

- "Alarm Grows Among Dems About Obama's Chances" **FOXNEWS.COM**
- "How to Act Human: Advice for Mitt Romney From Inside the Actors Studio" **NYMAG.COM**
- "Conservatives mock Obama's insertion of his name into other presidential bios" **TWITCHY.COM**
- "Virginia House Rejects Judge Because He Is Gay" **THINK PROGRESS**
- "Black Folks Not Quite Ready To Vote GOP Over Marriage Equality" **MOJO**
- "JP Morgan May Screw Up, But Obama Still Admires Jamie Dimon" **THE ATLANTIC WIRE**
- "Americans Elect without a nominee" **POLITICO.COM**
- "Romney donor pulls support, backs Obama, over same-sex marriage" **CNN**
- "MSNBC's Chris Matthews tells black preacher to 'evolve'" **BEARINGDRIFT.COM**

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News in brief

PAUL ARCHULETA/FILMMAGIC/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Michaels

Bret Michaels settles lawsuit over brain injury

NEW YORK. Rock singer Bret Michaels has settled a lawsuit he filed against the Tony Awards and CBS for damages to his head after a stage set piece knocked him down and he claimed it contributed to a brain hemorrhage he later suffered.

The terms of the settlement were not released. Michaels sued CBS and Tony Awards Productions after he performed in 2009 with his band Poison during the awards telecast of Broadway's best shows, claiming producers failed to tell him how to exit the stage safely. **REUTERS**

Judge rules against Coleman's widow

SALT LAKE CITY. Former child star Gary Coleman's ex-wife failed to prove she had lived with him as a common law spouse even after their divorce, a Utah judge has ruled, in a move that could strip her of rights to the "Diff'rent Strokes" actor's estate.

Coleman, died two years ago at age 42 after suffering a brain hemorrhage in an accidental fall at his Utah home.

He died after being taken off of life support — a decision made by his former wife, Shannon Price. **REUTERS**

Americans have no idea how credit scores are calculated

A new report out from the Consumer Federation of America leaves a big impression about the U.S. consumer, and it's not a pleasant one.

Americans, it seems, just don't know much about their credit scores — specifically, how they're calculated and what impacts them the most.

That's not good news for tens of millions of Americans mired in debt. Bad credit can lead to more debt, as banks and lenders tack on extra fees and higher interest rates to extend credit to riskier consumers — in other words, those with lower credit ratings.

In a new study released this week by the CFA (the second annual Survey of Consumer Knowledge About Credit Scores), year-to-year consumer understanding of credit scores are up slightly, but that's the only piece of encouraging news from the report.

THINKSTOCK IMAGES

▶ Consumers may find their lack of credit knowledge will end up hurting them where it hurts most — in the bank account.

Consumers did show positive signs on credit knowledge in some areas, especially which service providers actually provided credit scores; the fact that consumers have more than one credit score; and how to raise their credit score. All were up moderately according to the survey.

CFA calls that knowledge gap a "serious misunderstanding" on the part of American consumers. **MAINSTREET.COM**

Debt burden

To get an idea how deeply consumers are mired in debt take a look at these numbers:

- Total U.S. revolving debt (98 percent of which is credit card debt): $801 billion, as of December 2011, according to the Federal Reserve.
- Total U.S. consumer debt: $25 trillion, according to the Fed.
- U.S. credit card 30-day delinquency rate in January 2012: 2.93 percent.

29% Number of people knew that, on a $20,000 auto loan, borrowers with low credit would pay $5,000 or more than a consumer with high credit over the life of the auto loan.

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THE WORD

Metro's **Monica Weymouth** shares her take on the world of gossip @monicaatmetro monica.weymouth@metro.us

Jay-Z has Obama's back on gay marriage

When Jay-Z went on CNN yesterday and was asked about Obama's recent public support of gay marriage, he didn't necessarily say anything groundbreaking. We're all humans, we're wasting our time talking about this, love happens: You've heard this before.

But, that said, everything sounds so much cooler when it's delivered with a little Jay-Z swagger. This guy should consider running for office — or calling us:

"I've always thought of [opposition to gay marriage] as something that was still holding the country back. What people do in their own homes is their business."

Of course it is. I bet your home is lovely. It seems like it would smell really nice and have good snacks. Swoon.

"It's really not about votes, it's about people. Whether it costs [Obama] votes or not, I think it's the right thing to do as a human being."

We're humans! We love being human. Go humans.

"You can choose to love whoever you love."

Like you, for instance. I mean, if Beyonce's cool with it. She's probably not. Forget this part happened.

▶ Talk to us, Jay.

It's official: We're afraid of Tom Cruise

We don't know what to make of the June cover of W magazine: We get that it's a joke and **Tom Cruise** is in character for his upcoming heavy-metal musical "Rock of Ages," but we suspect he thinks he looks seriously hot here.

Inside, the actor talks about where he learned his "Risky Business" dance moves: "My mother worked, my sisters were out, and I'd turn the music up. I learned how to dance watching 'Soul Train.' I noticed that if a guy could dance, he'd get a lot of attention and girls would want to dance with him. I worked very hard at imitating those moves."

Now if only he worked very hard at imitating how humans act. Oh — like you were fooling anyone with those eyes, Tom.

Crazy doesn't come cheap

Demi Lovato may get to sit at the same table as **Britney Spears** on "The X Factor," but she won't be taking home the same paycheck. While Spears signed a $15 million deal, Lovato will be earning a little more than $1 million for judging Season 2 of the singing competition, reports TMZ. Take note, Demi: Sometimes taking a year off to fall out of limos covered in Cheetos dust pays — big time.

Lovato

Talking points

First Travolta accuser drops lawsuit

The first man to accuse **John Travolta** of sexual battery has dropped the lawsuit he filed against the actor. The unnamed masseur claimed that the actor had harassed him during a massage session in Beverly Hills, but evidence placing Travolta in New York during the alleged incident cast doubts over the accusations. A second masseur is still suing over a separate incident. Travolta's lawyers have maintained that all of the claims are "complete fabrication and fiction."

Hemsworth on name games

What's in a name? Well, for **Chris Hemsworth**'s newborn daughter, **India**, it simply pleased the parents. "It was just a name we liked," Hemsworth explains to E! News. "I always kind of liked Indie or Indiana for a boy, and she liked India. We sort of went, 'Oh well, whether it's a boy or girl, that will decide it.' It just seemed to fit." The 28-year-old "Avengers" star is equally pleased with finally being a father. "I've wanted to have kids for a long time, and here it is, and I couldn't be happier."

Jessica Alba: Not such a tough girl

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

▶ Hemsworth

While **Jessica Alba** is comfortable with her public image now, it wasn't always so easy, she admits — especially back in her "Dark Angel" days. "I had a show that premiered when I was 19. And right away, everyone formed a strong opinion about me because of the way I was marketed. I was supposed to be sexy, this tough action girl. That's what people expected," she tells Marie Clare magazine. "I felt like I was being objectified, and it made me uncomfortable. I wanted to be chic and elegant!"

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Rashida Jones is easing her way in, Russell Brand is doing a little self-improvement, Katy Perry prefers kitten therapy and Seth MacFarlane won't let his colors burst.

@iamrashidajones: Working up the courage to use Twitter for my idle musings and glib observations. I feel like the sober late-arriver at a raging party.

@rustyrockets: Now I must do kundalini yoga to install a new consciousness in the ol' brain box.

@katyperry: all I need in this life of sin is me and my kitten.

@SethMacFarlane: Whenever I hear Katy Perry's "Firework", I like to picture an elderly Jewish man covering his ears and saying, "Aaa, please don't yell!"

Jones

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Celebrity identity crisis

In honor of "The Dictator," we look back on some of our favorite celebrity alter egos — because, well, dictators aren't that photogenic.

1: As **Sasha Fierce**, **Beyonce** was rocking a Snooki-approved bump and bionic glove circa 2008.

2: If we only knew then that **Hannah Montana** was far less maddening than **Miley Cyrus** proper.

3: Call us old school — or worse — but **Ali G** will always be our favorite **Sacha Baron Cohen** character.

4: As the glamorous grandfather of stage alter egos, **Bowie's Ziggy Stardust** introduced the world to the wonder of boys in eyeliner.

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▶ "Starhawk" is in stores now.

Remember that mountain of gold Scrooge McDuck would swim through? That's about how expensive it is to make a top-tier video game these days. As a result, developers simply can't risk giving one console an exclusive to call its own. Console manufacturers, though, can still flex that "we've got what the other one doesn't have" muscle. Here are reviews of two.

▶ 'Mario Tennis Open'

Console: 3DS
Company: Nintendo
Grade: ●●●●○

Nintendo is essentially the king of exclusive titles, and nobody speaks to that more than everyone's favorite Italian plumber. Mario, just like Joe, may be a plumber in name only. He spends most of his time saving princesses and playing sports. Now he's back on the tennis court, this time in 3-D!

"Mario Tennis Open" is pretty similar in layout to last year's "Mario Kart 7." There are tons of courts, characters and play styles. The online play, available in 1-on-1 and 2-on-2, retains the high watermark set by "MK7." The game tries too hard to shoehorn in touchscreen and gyroscope control, but it's still an addictive and fun game of cartoon tennis.

▶ 'Starhawk'

Console: PS3
Company: Sony
Grade: ●●●●○

If Nintendo is the king of exclusives, Sony is definitely an archduke. The company has the "Uncharted" series, "Resistance," "God of War" and too many more to list. Now they have "Starhawk," too.

This third-person action title has a pretty generic single player campaign. The writing is lazy and doesn't adequately capture the majesty of the space Western. Some of the set-pieces are cool, but a great many are forgettable. So why the high score? The multiplayer is seriously amazing. Like, "hold your pee in for 16 hours because you are so addicted" amazing. Thirty-two people in space battling it out on foot, in ships or however else they want. It's the craziest online experience to be had on the PS3.

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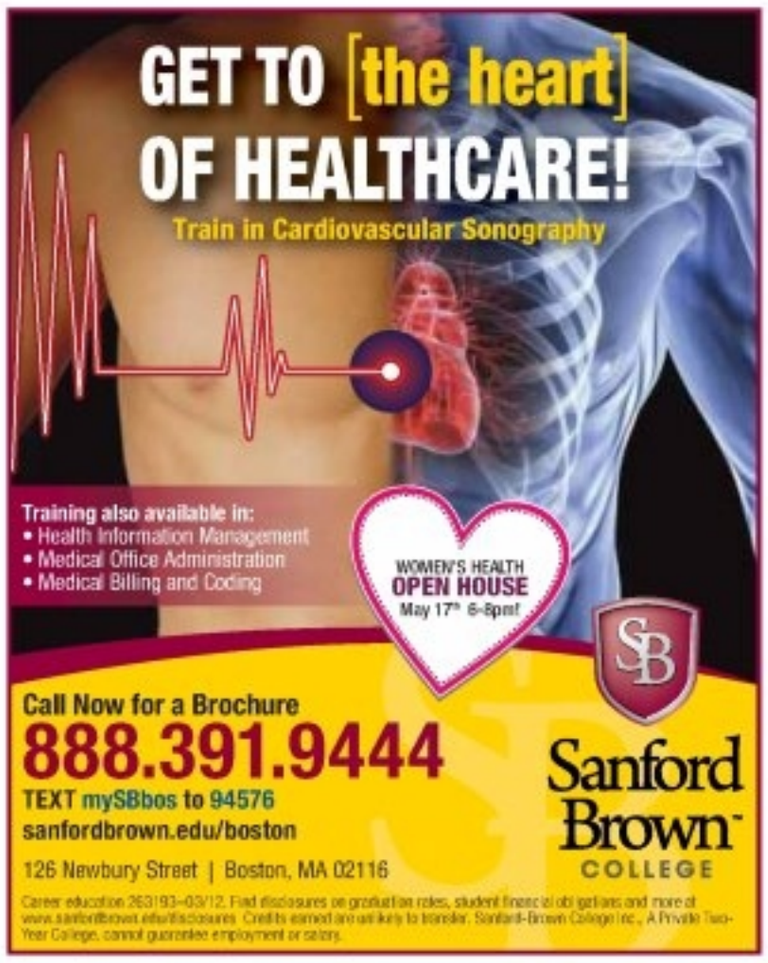
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mystyle

Francisco Costa's new line is more Calvin than Carnival

The latest collection of summer dresses from Francisco Costa for Calvin Klein seems designed to transition from day to night. In fact, the setting sun was the inspiration for the line's sexy, modern shapes cast in a range of warm tones to cool neutrals.

This collection, available today in stores and online, is part of Macy's "A Magical Journey to Brasil" campaign, which enlists a variety of designers to celebrate the country's vibrant culture. Ten percent of sales from these collections will benefit the Amazon rainforest. We spoke to Costa about how he captured his native Brazil with these looks.

Which elements of your home country did you want to evoke with this collection?

Architecture, for me, is the most important thing. I have great love for architecture, and Brazilian architecture really signified a lot for me growing up ... [such as] the gorgeous sunset over the [Niteroi Contemporary Art] Museum, which is basically cement and steel — very basic elements. That's my color palette: the sunset colors over the cool cement, and the white and black and gray.

"There's a level of confidence in Brazilian women — and they're not all the same, you know, it's not all perfect bodies."
COSTA

▶ Costa

The cool colors and minimalism probably aren't what people usually associate with Brazil.

Well, it is very festive — and very sophisticated. There is a tremendous sophistication in Brazilian architecture and art. I think there's a misconception of Brazil as Carnival. The stereotypical Brazil is great, but there's a love of sophistication there that is represented through my designs, through the fabrication, colors and wearability.

Are there any major differences in Brazilian and American style?

Brazilian women are very sensuous. Maybe there's a little more sensuality in the way they present themselves — a little less puritan, maybe. ... There's an easiness about the culture, the weather, what have you — the less fussy, the better. There's a level of confidence in Brazilian women — and they're not all the same, you know, it's not all perfect bodies. They're not all Gisele [Bundchen], but they're all confident, which is really nice.

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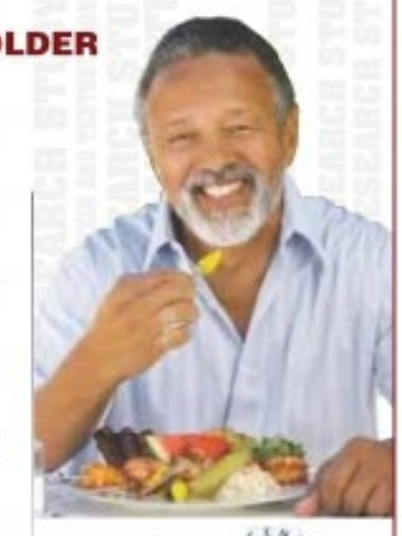

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Events

▶ Guests walk from vendor to vendor at last week's StyleFixx.

MARA TETRO/METRO

Hitting Boston with StyleFixx

May 9 and 10 brought back the latest StyleFixx Premier Shopping Events to Boston for its 11th year of glamour. At the Boston Center for the Arts, guests were invited to join Boston's most fashion-forward for two nights of fashion fun, including more than 55 designers and brands. Activities included product sampling and spa, hair and beauty treatments. Metro helped sponsor the event, running the Metro VIP Press/Blogger Lounge for all the major fashion bloggers of Boston and providing free massages, care of Massage Envy, for any and all. Don't fret if you missed this event! StyleFixx is coming back Oct. 24 and 25 for the fall fashion season, and we hope to see you there! METRO

myentertainment

Comic relief for an oppressed society

Sacha Baron Cohen's new film,'The Dictator,' hits all the marks of a genius comedy, but he doesn't quite top the critical success of 'Borat'

MELINDA SUE GORDON

▶ The "loving oppressor" doles out his wickedness to the fictitious nation of Wadiya.

'The Dictator'
Director: Larry Charles
Cast: Sacha Baron Cohen, Ben Kingsley, Anna Faris
Rating: R **Grade:** B

It wouldn't be an overstatement to say that Sacha Baron Cohen's comedic sense is genius. It's crude and vulgar, but also genius. As with his previous characters — Ali G, Borat and Bruno — Baron Cohen's latest uniformed buffoon makes jokes about racist, sexist and antisemitic attitudes. He teases out in people the opinions that are unfortunately still very much a part of the world, even if they aren't expressed as genuinely as they are felt.

This time Baron Cohen plays Admiral General Aladeen, the leader of the African nation of Wadiya. When he travels to New York to speak to the U.N., he finds that there are detractors within the ranks who are seeking to overthrow him. Replaced by a lookalike, he takes up work at a local health food co-op, run by neo-hippie Zoey (Anna Faris) in the hopes of weaseling his way back into control of his country.

Baron Cohen's greatest success was with "Borat" in which, while playing a TV host from Kazakhstan, he pounced on unassuming non-actors and their firmly held beliefs. As talented of a screenwriter as he is, that kind of spontaneity is where Baron Cohen truly shines. "The Dictator" is hilarious, wise and stunningly appropriate for the time we live in, but Baron Cohen does his best when he can flay unsuspecting victims by luring them into believing he is just as closed-minded as they are.

HEIDI PATALANO
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TV watch list

ABC/RICHARD CARTWRIGHT

▶ George (Jeremy Sisto) and Eden (Alicia Silverstone) attend the Lerners' baby shower on the season finale of "Suburgatory."

'Suburgatory'

COMEDY. Chatswin goes all out to honor its mamas on Mother's Day, which makes Tessa feel even more uncomfortable than usual — especially when George and his pregnant lady friend Eden attend the Lerners' baby shower. **Season finale, 8:30 p.m., ABC**

'American Idol'

REALITY. The final three perform, which leads to extra shots of J.Lo's fabulous outfit to fill the rest of the time. **8 p.m., Fox**

'The Weight of the Nation for Kids'

DOCUMENTARY. A companion to the eye-opening "The Weight of the Nation," the documentary series tackling the myths and facts surrounding obesity in America, "The Weight of the Nation for Kids" turns its lens to the youngest fighters against fatty foods. The three-part series opens with "The Great Cafeteria Takeover," profiling a group of New Orleans kids who demanded healthier meals in their schools. **7 p.m., HBO**

'The Middle'

COMEDY. Frankie looks like mom of the year when she busts Sue and Axl for making bad decisions — until the poor choice she made to use Brick as her snitch is revealed. **8 p.m., ABC**

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Today in medicine

Sports and energy drinks cause tooth erosion

Study subjects: Lab study
Location of study: U.S.
Results: New research published in General Dentistry magazine finds that sports and energy drinks cause permanent damage to tooth enamel. The high acidity levels in some of these drinks and increased use, particularly in teens and young adults, is thought to be the cause of a nationwide surge in tooth erosion.
Significance: Although energy drinks caused twice as much damage as sports drinks, researchers concluded that neither is a healthy alternative to soda. Damaged tooth enamel leaves teeth unprotected and prone to cavities and decay.

Busy roads risky for heart attack survivors

Study subjects: 3,547 heart attack survivors
Location of study: U.S.
Results: A recent study published in Circulation — the American Heart Association's journal — finds that heart attack survivors living near a major U.S. highway had an increased risk of death from various causes. Researchers found that those patients living less than 328 feet away from a roadway increased their risk of dying over 10 years by 27 percent, compared to those who live at least 3,280 feet away.
Significance: Exposure to air pollution, noise and stress near major U.S. roads seems to contribute to declining health and increased risk of death, particularly for those who already have cardiovascular disease.

STOCKBYTE

▶ Drinking acidic sports and energy drinks can do serious damage to your teeth.

Mushroom compound for breast cancer

Study subjects: Mice
Location of study: U.S.
Results: Researchers at Indiana University's Cancer Laboratory found that a blend of extracts from medicinal mushrooms, medicinal herbs and purified nutritional compounds hinders human breast cancer growth and the spread of cancer from breast to lung in mice.
Significance: Since many breast cancer patients die from metastasis, the spreading of the disease, the formula has great promise for steadying metastatic breast cancer. LINDA CLARKE

Wellness

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GETTY IMAGES

On May 19, the famous British chef asks you to join his healthy-eating crusade, aka Food Revolution Day He says: 'I'm not anti-burger or anti-pizza; I'm anti-s— food'

Jamie Oliver wants you

Star chef Jamie Oliver is on a mission to change how the world eats.

Chef Jamie Oliver has devoted his career to fighting unhealthy eating — and you can see why: Global obesity has more than doubled since 1980. Each year, 2.8 million adults around the world die as a result of being overweight.

On Saturday, the British TV star launches his latest effort, Food Revolution Day, a global campaign that asks you to think about eating right: Host a locally sourced dinner party, or start a campaign at work or school. Check out **www.foodrevolutionday.com** for more ideas and events in your city.

Here's Oliver on why you should join him:

So, the obesity crisis: How did we end up here?

The main issue is the Western diet: It's single-handedly more responsible for damage to global health than anything else. In so many Western countries, we have three generations of people who were never taught how to cook at home. Both parents were at work, food education at school is s—, they can't learn there. I've been in houses where kids only hydrate on fizzy drinks and show no interest in tap water. And technology, freezing techniques and processed foods have only made things worse.

Will the world ever get healthy again?

I actually think that multinationals and fast-food companies are the best people to lead the change. If they chose to get behind healthy eating, they would do a better job than any other government or individual. If you thought the oil and petrol industry was complicated and causing wars, think again. The food industry is on another level. The problem is the corruption between food industries and governments. We need to address smaller issues like chicken farming or pink slime.

Q&A

Do you think that most Americans would rather go to McDonald's than to the gym?

Things need to change, otherwise the whole country will come to a standstill. People won't be mobile. It's a question of national security. How can you train an army if the nation is obese? Progress will happen. They have no choice.

And how will Food Revolution Day help?

I'm not anti-burger or anti-pizza; I'm anti-s— food. With Food Revolution Day, I'm trying to get as many people as possible to stir the pot. We all need to become a little fussier about what we put in our [mouths]. When you put something in your mouth, it's a very personal thing that affects you straight away.

You've already tried to change North American food habits once. What makes you think people will listen to you this time?

I expect nothing. People may not want me around, but I don't think I've ever wasted my time. I don't give a s— if people think I'm crazy. North America is difficult as it's where a lot of the unhealthy foods and brands are created. It's the eye of the storm. Most countries eventually follow their trends, whether they like it or not.

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

Adults with celiac disease needed for a research study

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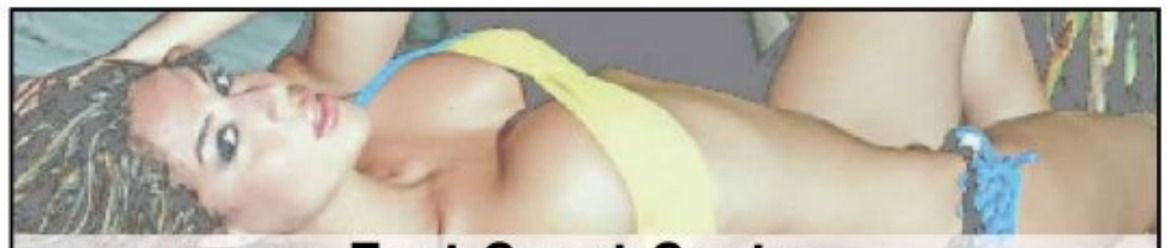
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center



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Letters

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As US history turns, consensus a dream

RE: "GAY MARRIAGE RIGHTS BACKLASH BACKLASH": If same-sex couples need to use the word "marriage" in order to get the legal rights and recognition that a loving commited union deserves, then why not just give them the word? It doesn't hurt; it's only a word!
MARK NOBLE, SOMERVILLE

History does not back up when it comes to advancements in equality. We will not have another president who believes in legislating against the right of women to vote, or the right for interracial couples to marry. We will never have another president in favor of legislating against same-sex marriage. Shout and stamp your feet, or sing and cheer, it's over — that inequality is over, that piece of legislated hate is over. Cling to it and you're over. Next.
SCOTT KEELEY, VIA E-MAIL

Those who are against gay rights have a whole lot in common with the Taliban who deny their people their civil rights and in many cases their lives. In America, we just make them miserable.
SUZY SANDOR, VIA E-MAIL

Stephen Watson's letter criticizes people for not knowing their history, then states incorrectly that the federal government once prohibited interracial marriage. Actually such marriages were only prohibited under state law. Such laws existed in only 16 states at the time the Supreme Court declared such laws unconstitutional in 1967. **MIKE TROY, VIA E-MAIL**

In response to Cher Hearn: Yes, you're right for pointing out that marriage at one time was originally a business transaction wherein the bride was the property of her father who had a contract with the father of the groom. However, it was still a union between a man and a woman.
KAREN SMITH, VIA E-MAIL

Should all weddings in North America before July 4, 1776, be annuled because the government did not sanction the wedding? No, of course not! Legal precedent is clear and historically churches are where weddings, baptisms, and funerals are held and recorded; the government merely recognizes it. Marriage is a religious institution, and it has been for some time; it's not a political one.
JOHN HEMPHILL, VIA E-MAIL

I have one request: that people stop comparing being gay to being black. There is no comparison to the hardships that blacks have faced to get the rights that we have now. Blacks were considered the lowest of the low and in some aspects still are. So blacks do not have to be sensitive to what homosexuals are going through. Until they are hunted, hung and ridiculed, don't look to us for sympathy.
GARRETT LESTER, VIA E-MAIL

I just want to make sure I understand this correctly: Just because I am black I should support gay marriage? I don't know what can be more far from reality. Gay marriage is not a civil rights issue stated by some, it is a moral issue. I didn't make it this way; talk to the man upstairs who deemed this from the beginning of creation.
NICOLE PEARSALL, VIA E-MAIL

The Catholic religion opposes all forms of hatred including racism, sexism, homophobia and anti-Semitism.
JOHN FRANCIS FOX, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** You'll be surprised by your comprehension of the old saying: "We learn by teaching." Let others be the instructors, for a change.
♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** If you discover that others are ready and willing to help you, drop everything and take them up on their offer. Chances are it'll be a golden opportunity.
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** It isn't likely you'll find a better day to confront an individual about a prickly issue that needs resolution. By taking advantage of opportune timing, beneficial results can be achieved.
♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Utilize your strong feelings of ambition and motivation to take care of several large-scale objectives. It's the strong desire to succeed that powers the engine of success.
♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** If you put your best foot forward, certain people with whom you'll be in contact socially will happily agree to play some important roles in your present activities.
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Because no one knows your needs better than you, it will be up to you to orchestrate what measures should be taken to enhance your overall material security.
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** For reasons you may not fully understand, your influence over your peers could be very powerful at this point in time. Keep your comments as constructive as possible.
♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Although it generally isn't advisable, in your case it's OK to involve people with whom you share a close personal relationship in your business ventures.
♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** You should finally be able to come up with a way to circumvent an obstacle in your path. Be ready, because it will require a surge of activity on your part.
♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** It could be vital to keep your ideas and intentions confined only to those who are directly involved in an important endeavor on which you're working. Secrecy is a must.
♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Be open-minded to a new way of doing something that might be superior to your present method. Be flexible in mind and keep your options open, and you'll come out ahead.
♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Although each might require a bit of effort, several important objectives can be attained. Don't hesitate to go all out in order to achieve what you want. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

Across
1 Chafes
5 Thomas __ Edison
9 Long-tailed squawker
14 Kind of hygiene
15 Non-clerical
16 Weasel out of
17 Give the eye
18 __ B'rith
19 Socially challenged ones
20 Horse's "lunchbox"
22 Most precious
24 Star in Cygnus
26 False front
27 Dishonorably
30 Lying fallow
35 Shake off
36 Fingerprint, maybe
37 Audition tape
38 PC acronym
39 Gaily
42 Encyclopedia bk.
43 Far East cuisine
45 Oaf
46 Chosen few
48 Metal-cutting tools
50 Lamented
51 911 responder
52 Things to split
54 Meter readers
58 Lake cabins, often
62 Cager Shaq __
63 Revival shout
65 Ms. Dinesen
66 Witless
67 Sheet of stamps
68 Wheel hub
69 Bedouin, for one
70 Char on the outside
71 Eat away at

Down
1 Overhead structure
2 Natural impulse
3 Hoedown prop
4 Took the toboggan
5 Hudson River city
6 Jessica or Hope
7 By way of
8 Kind of test
9 Threat
10 Warded off
11 Relief org.
12 Attaches
13 Into the sunset
21 Amazon port
23 Palette adjunct
25 Cattail
27 Bed on a ship
28 Wahine's welcome
29 Wild shrub
31 Soir follower
32 Goethe villain
33 Overdo a role
34 Gave out sparingly
36 As the __ flies
40 Please greatly
41 Be lovesick
44 Art of flower-arranging
47 Liable to sink
49 Showed pleasure
50 Kind of roast
53 Sports venue
54 Fountain toss-in
55 Livy's year
56 Laser emission
57 Drains, as of energy
59 Strong __ __ ox
60 Pumice source
61 Represent unfairly
64 Daisy __ Yokum

7		4	1		2			8
	5	3				4	1	
					4			
9			3				2	
	1		4		9		3	
	2				7			5
			7					
	3	9				5	6	
6			5		1	3		4

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

	4	1			7			8
2					9	7		
		7	6			9		
4			8			1		5
		6				8		
7		8			2			6
		5			3	6		
		4	9					3
3			4			5	8	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

S	P	A	S		C	H	E	C	K		W	A	R	Y
C	A	R	Y		A	A	R	O	N		E	L	I	E
A	N	O	N		N	I	E	C	E		B	A	B	A
L	E	M	O	N	S		C	O	L	D	F	I	S	H
P	L	A	N	E		S	T	A	T	U	E			
			Y	O	W	L				P	E	P	S	I
P	A	L	M		E	A	R		G	E	T	U	P	S
R	H	O			D	W	E	L	L			P	E	I
O	S	I	R	I	S		X	I	I		T	A	W	S
S	O	D	A	S				E	B	A	Y			
			N	E	L	S	O	N		A	P	A	R	T
G	O	U	G	E	O	U	T		T	A	I	L	O	R
E	R	N	O		A	S	T	R	O		C	L	A	Y
L	E	T	O		T	H	E	T	A		A	I	M	S
T	O	O	N		H	I	R	E	D		L	E	S	T

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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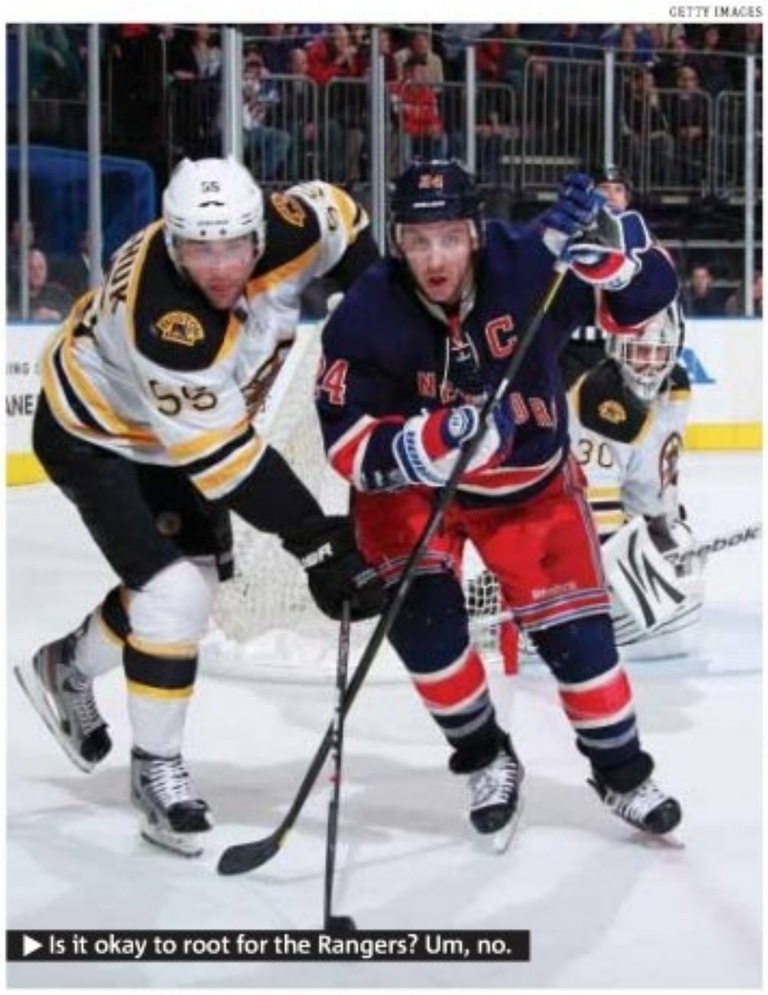
Boston's hockey blues

Since the Bruins were eliminated, it's been hard to watch the NHL playoffs But time, of course, heals all wounds A look at the teams remaining and who Boston should root for

We were all expecting the Bruins to be a part of the NHL's final four.

We all figured we'd still be watching Brad Marchand and Co. defending their Stanley Cup title deep into May. Instead, Bruins fans need to find a different place to direct their Little Ball of Hate. With the conference finals in full swing, who should Bruins fans be rooting for, and more important, against?

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Is it okay to root for the Rangers? Um, no.

NEW YORK RANGERS

This one is a no-brainer. But there's actually one really good reason to root for the Rangers: If they go on to win the Stanley Cup, they're already eliminated from contention next season, as no team has repeated since 1988. Might as well start clearing a Bruins path to the 2013 Cup as early as possible.

But, let's face it, who around here is rooting for the Blueshirts? Unless you're rooting for injuries.

LOS ANGELES KINGS

There's actually plenty to like here, between the underdog nature of this No. 8-seed shocking the Canucks in the first round and steaming full-on into the conference finals. And the goalie, Jonathan Quick, went to UMass Amherst, a nice, solid local connection.

But, c'mon, this is L.A., and any team that shares space with the Lakers at the Staples Center cannot be rooted for by any self-respecting Boston fan. Sorry, it's non-negotiable.

PHOENIX COYOTES

Let's face it, unless it's Robert Luongo and Vancouver or Joe Thornton and San Jose, it's a little hard for Bruins fans to work up a lather over the Western Conference. But if there's a team easy to dislike, it's probably the Coyotes and their suspended hatchet-man, Raffi Torres. Between Marc Savard and Nathan Horton, Bruins fans need no reminder how destructive a cheap head shot can be, and Torres took things to a new level in the first round against Chicago, when he needlessly leveled Marian Hossa. Tough to root for the team that employs that garbage.

NEW JERSEY DEVILS

This might be the only team of the four the Bruins have trouble rooting against. There's the Martin Brodeur factor, an older goalie leading his team to Stanley Cup glory — that played nicely in Boston last June.

And if you need a player to latch onto these next few weeks, who better than Zach Parise? The Bruins are expected to have Parise high on their offseason target list. Any team that knocks out both the Flyers and Rangers can't be all bad, can it?

JEFF GOLDBERG
sports@metro.us

In the news

Welker signs

Patriots wide receiver Wes Welker signed his franchise tender yesterday and it is now nearly certain that he will attend the team's minicamp in June.

The Patriots and Welker can still negotiate a longterm deal until July 15.

"I signed my tender today. I love the game and I love my teammates! Hopefully doing the right thing gets the right results," Welker wrote on Twitter.

Philadelphia suddenly shining in clutch spots

With two games of the Eastern Conference semifinals in the books and Game 3 tonight in Philly (7 p.m., TNT), we know two things: Not much separates the Celtics from the 76ers, and it's going to be an ugly series.

On the surface, that sounds like a recipe for disaster for the Sixers. They went 35-31 in the regular season, but were a laughable 5-18 in games decided by eight points or fewer. They were even worse in games decided by five points or fewer, recording a 1-8 mark.

The ineptitude may be a little fluky, but it also speaks to the lack of a star and the team's general offensive ineptitude.

However, the pendulum has begun to swing the other way in the playoffs. The Sixers squeezed out a five-point win over the Bulls in Game 3. They later clinched that series with a wild one-point Game 6 victory. Each of the first two Celtics games have come down to one point, with the teams splitting the difference. Add it up and we have a 3-1 record in the playoffs in games decided by five points or fewer.

"I have to tell you all season long we couldn't win these games," coach Doug Collins said. "And now our guys are believing they can do it, and it is pretty special to watch."

As the series shifts to Philadelphia for tonight's Game 3, both sides are expecting another close game. And suddenly, that's just fine by the Sixers. ADAM LEVITAN

BRIAN BABINEAU/GETTY IMAGES

▶ The 76ers have been efficient in crunch time.

Quoted

"I don't really worry about where we play. It's just about how we play."

RAY ALLEN ON GOING TO PHILLY

22 The Celtics played twice in Philadelphia in the 2011-12 regular season, losing both games by an average of 22 points. Philadelphia is favored by two points in tonight's Game 3.

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Beckett with big rebuttal

It came one start too late, but Josh Beckett (3-4) began to make amends with Red Sox fans yesterday by hurling seven strong innings without allowing a run in Boston's 5-0 win over the Mariners at Fenway Park.

It was the Red Sox's fifth straight victory as they improved to 17-19 on the season and 9-11 at Fenway.

Beckett, who was shelled last Thursday against Cleveland, allowed just four hits yesterday and struck out nine batters on his 32nd birthday.

David Ortiz got Boston on the board in the third inning with a solo shot to right. Mike Aviles had a pair of RBIs for the Red Sox as Boston did most of its damage in the middle innings.

Seattle fell to 16-22 overall in 2012.

Prior to the game, newly retired Red Sox pitcher Tim Wakefield threw out the first pitch as the club honored his 17 years in Boston. His No. 49 was cut into the grass in center field.

ELSA/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Josh Beckett did not allow a run yesterday.

9
Number of strike outs Josh Beckett had yesterday against the Mariners. It was the first time Beckett worked over six innings without allowing a run since last July 17 against Tampa.

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Principal Investigator:
Alice B. Gottlieb, MD, PhD
Chair and Dermatologist-In-Chief
Department of Dermatology
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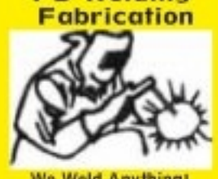

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at home with metro

Black and white and red all over

Creative director Elizabeth Kiester describes her bright, glossy, high-rise apartment as 'geometric, graphic and maximalist'

If you were to combine Coco Chanel's trademark black-and-white aesthetic with the pop quality of, say, a Diet Coke can, you'd get the eye candy that is Elizabeth Kiester's New York apartment. Perhaps not surprisingly for a fashion editor-turned-creative director, her home is a seamless extension of her wardrobe.

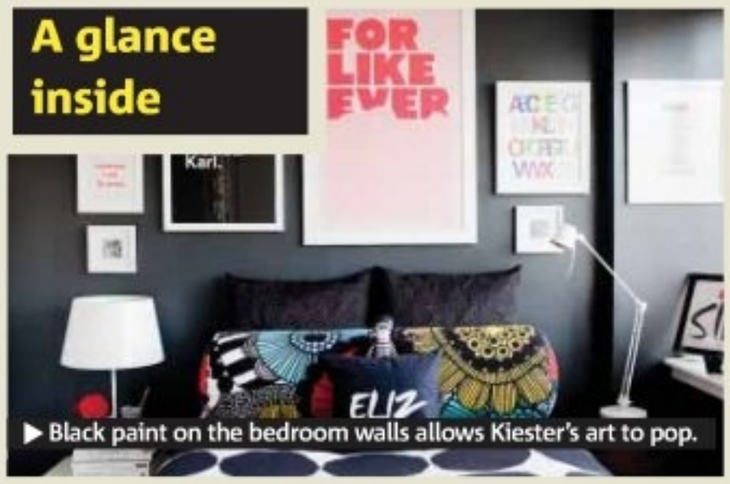
"My entire place is grounded in black and white with pops of color — mostly red. It never goes out of style," she explains, also describing her trademark sartorial look. "I match my apartment every day!"

She accessorizes her place with graphic Marimekko linens, knickknacks purchased in Tokyo and religious icons collected from all over the world, in the same maximalist way that she would style a black tailored suit. "I am not a minimalist. I love accessories in my home and on my person — stacks of bangles and chunky jewelry, oversized glasses and hats," she adds. If she sounds like a pro at this, it's because she is in a way. "My mom was an interior decorator and my sister is one. So I think it runs in my blood."

▶ Kiester collects religious icons from around the world.

KENYA HUNT
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

A glance inside



▶ Black paint on the bedroom walls allows Kiester's art to pop.

▶ Red is her favorite accent color.

▶ Kiester matches her home.

▶ Kiester accessorizes her home as much as her wardrobe.

ASHLEY MACKNICA

Steal her style

1. **Sonia Rykiel Maison Api Noir cushion, $155,** www.amara.co.uk

2. **Vahram Muratyan La Mode print, $254,** www.colette.fr

3. **Marimekko Kivet duvet, $129,** www.crateandbarrel.com

Product picks

Kiester's go-to brands

Towels: "My mother always told me one should splurge and buy only Royal Velvet towels. They are the lushest and most luxurious."

Bed linens: "I don't really care about thread count. So I buy sheets that have gorgeous graphic prints. They're not easy to find. Most of the ones I have are from Marimekko."

Tableware: "Ikea, for it's value, cuteness and sharpness."

the lofts
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REAL ESTATE ON THE GO!

LANDLORD AS "LORD OF THE LAND"

By Attorney George Warshaw

Last week I explored a few basic mistakes that landlords tend to make. There is one more worth mentioning. It has to do with attitude and the approach to managing one's real estate.

Some landlords take the word "landlord" literally to mean "lord of the land." They act as if that they are doing the tenant a favor by renting the apartment to the tenant.

It's easy to forget that the landlord-tenant relationship is a *contractual* relationship. The landlord contracts to deliver and maintain a code compliant apartment and the tenant agrees to pay the rent and act in a responsible manner.

Compliance with housing laws is ***not*** optional – and its failure heavily penalized. It's also good business.

With rents again at high levels, landlords have the cash flow to upgrade their apartments, and upgraded apartments often result in higher desirability and higher rents.

The law presumes that whatever rent the landlord charges is for *full sanitary code compliance*. You can't knock something off the rent because there are holes in the walls or drafty windows. It doesn't work that way.

So my suggestion for landlords is simple, treat your tenant like a valued business customer. You'll both be happier in the end.

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GWA

George Warshaw is a real estate attorney and author. He represents buyers and sellers of homes and condos in Massachusetts, and prepares wills, trusts, and estate plans. George welcomes new clients and questions at metro@warshawlaw.com.

at home with metro

▶ This house in North Edgartown is listed for $595,000.

DOUG REECE

Vacation homes get back to work

▶ Investors are busy buying on Martha's Vineyard this year ▶ Act now to get your own Vineyard haven while prices are still low

An affordable home on Martha's Vineyard was a pipe dream before the recession. With investors invigorating the market this year, prices may soon start soaring once again. So if you're looking to buy, hurry up!

"Sales are up about 26 percent in our market," says Vineyard-based realtor Doug Reece of RE/MAX on Island. "It's even better than 2011. There are more showings, and rentals are up too. There are lots of investors pulling out money and buying homes for the rental market."

Back in 2005 when the market peaked, properties started at around $500,000.

"Right now, entry level is $270,000 to $280,000," says Reece, adding, "That [drop] has been driven by foreclosures and short sales. It's not as high here as in other areas, but those impacted us too."

The activity is the result of that magical real estate market-stimulating triumvirate of low prices, incredibly low mortgage interest rates and high inventory. And it's not only realtors who are busy this season either.

"People in the trade are smiling," says Reece. "Carpenters, painters and contractors are all really busy because of the market activity. People are fixing up, ready to sell, and buyers are doing alterations."

Part of Martha's Vineyard's mystique is its famous inhabitants. For the past few years, when the Obamas vacationed on the island, putting the Vineyard on major news stations and in newspapers, Reece says people from far and wide started looking into renting or buying: "He has such a positive effect on the perception of the island worldwide. We see an increase of callers every time he stays here."

LINDA LABAN
linda.laban@metro.us

Buy now:

77 13th St., North Edgartown, Mass.

- **This 10-year-old single-family home** has 2,086 square feet of living space, including three beds and two baths. The interior design is open-plan and includes a field-stone fireplace in the living area. The house is set on a spacious lot (0.21 acres) and has easy access to the town boat landing nearby.
- **Listing price:** $595,000
- **Listing agent:** Doug Reece, RE/MAX on Island, 508-696-3704, www.marthas-vineyard-real-estate.com

The Boston Home Center

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To find out more, visit: www.cityofboston.gov/dnd/NSP.asp or call 617-635-HOME (4663).

This program is made possible through HUD's Neighborhood Stabilization Program and is subject to funding availability.

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Metro Boston Mortgage Guide

Bankrate.com

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